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CIRCULAR LETTER N° 6March 1954INTERNATIONAL ROSTRUM OF COMPOSERS

1. At a meeting held, in Geneva, in December 1953, the representatives of four European broadcasting stations agreed to launch a pilot-project for a joint series of concerts along the lines suggested by the International Music Council.

This first experimental series will consist of four concerts of chamber music - including chamber orchestra - featuring works by contemporary composers; exceptionally, an older work may be included if it is considered to have a particular bearing on contemporary musical trends.

The programmes of the four concerts will be made up of works sent in by the broadcasting stations concerned, i.e. :

Hessischer Rundfunk, Frankfurt (Germany)
Institut National de Radiodiffusion (Emission françaises -
Belgium)
Radiodiffusion-Télévision Françaises (France)
Radio-Genève (Switzerland)

and each concert will be given, with commentary, by resident artists in each country in turn, and before an audience of young people provided by the local section of International Federation of Musical Youth. The series will be held under the auspices of the International Music Council.

A programme-building Committee, consisting of members of the four broadcasting organizations concerned, together with representatives of the Club d'Essai de la Radiodiffusion Française and of the International Music Council, will meet on 25/26th March at the Documentation Centre of International Music in Paris. It will be recalled that the concerts which the Club d'Essai has for the past four years been giving at Unesco House, Paris, are at the origin of the present international project. The Documentation Centre of International Music will provide the secretariat for the Rostrum and the first series is to begin in October 1954. It is hoped that the results obtained from this pilot-project will induce other broadcasting stations, in Europe and overseas, to join the International Rostrum for its next series.

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL ROUND-TABLE MEETINGS

2. The theme of the 1953 meetings held at Oslo within the framework of the 27th Festival of the International Society for Contemporary Music was : "Contemporary music and the general public - by what kind of organization can the cause of contemporary music best be served today ?"

As a result of a resolution voted at this meeting, an agreement has come into force between the International Society for Contemporary Music and the International Federation of Musical Youth by which certain works selected at an International Society for Contemporary Music Festival are incorporated in the programmes of national sections of Musical Youth for the following season. In implementation of this agreement, two chamber music works : the Piano Sonata of Alberto Ginastera (Argentine) and the String Quartet N° 3 by Vagn Holmboe (Denmark), performed at the Oslo Festival of the International Society for Contemporary Music, have been included in the concert circuits of the Jeunesses Musicales de France.

3. Acting on a further resolution of the IMC Meeting in Oslo, the Executive Secretary has initiated negotiations between the President of the International Society for Contemporary Music and the Secretary General of the European Association of Music Festivals with a view to the inclusion of I.S.C.M. events in certain of the major European Festivals.

4. The 1954 International Music Council Round-Table Meeting will be held in Edinburgh, from 25th to 28th August, in association with the Edinburgh Festival. Its subject will be "Music and Youth". In addition to the usual sessions, it has been arranged that two of the Festival concerts (August 26th and August 28th) should have a bearing on the International Music Council Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL - Cannes

5. Among the events of this year's Festival will be an International Meeting of Film Authors and Composers, to be held under the auspices of Unesco. The meeting, which is being organized jointly by the International Federation of Film Authors, the International Music Council and the Film and Visual Information Division of Unesco, will take place on 2/4 April.

" MUSIC IN THE XXth CENTURY " - Rome

6. The International Music Council is collaborating with the European Centre of Culture in organizing six public debates which are to be held as a feature of the International Conference of Contemporary Music in Rome. The meetings will take place on 6th, 8th and 9th April 1954 and will have the following themes :

1. Music and contemporary society
2. Aesthetics and technique
3. Performers, composers and listeners
4. Music and politics
5. The composer and the critic
6. The future of opera

INTERNATIONAL REPERTORY OF MUSICAL SOURCES

7.. A meeting of experts on liturgical and sacred music, representing the catholic, anglican and calvinist churches, was held at Unesco House, Paris, in December 1953, under the chairmanship of Professor Friedrich Blume. Its chief task was to define the categories of printed works, from the 15th to the 18th centuries, which will constitute the series of the Repertory to be devoted to liturgical and sacred music.

CATALOGUES OF MUSIC SUITABLE FOR PERFORMANCE BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND AMATEURS

8. The International Music Council has set up a working committee entrusted with the task of assembling material for the publication of catalogues of instrumental and vocal music of high quality, both ancient and modern, suitable for performance by musical organizations consisting of young people or amateurs.

The Committee consists of Messrs. Sem Dresden (Chairman), Samuel Baud-Bovy (Secretary) and representatives of the following organizations :

International Association of Music Libraries
International Federation of Musical Youth
International Confederation of Popular Societies of Music
International Society for Contemporary Music
International Society for Music Education

At a meeting, held in December at Unesco House, it was decided to devote the first issue of this publication to a catalogue of modern orchestral music - from 1880 to the present day. The International Association of Music Libraries will act as secretariat to the Commission in the work of compilation of the material. Experts are being appointed in every country to make recommendations and they will cooperate, on the one hand, with amateur music organizations, and, on the other, with publishers.

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FUND

9. The Executive Secretary paid a visit to the United States during November 1953, the main purpose of which was to establish a basis for reviving the International Music Fund and developing its activities along the lines suggested by Dr. Serge Koussevitzky, its initiator, on his visit to Unesco in 1950.

In the course of several meetings with the Board of the Koussevitzky Foundation and with a number of other organizations and personalities, an examination was made of the future policy and function of the International Music Fund, its relation to the International Music Council and the structure which it might be given. It was established that the overall purpose of the International Music Fund shall be to encourage (a) the international dissemination of contemporary music and (b) the circulation of musicians among countries; and that the methods through which this purpose shall be implemented shall be (a) facilitating the publication, performance and recording of contemporary music on an international basis and (b) promoting the exchange of musicians at professional and student levels. The Executive Secretary of the International Music Council has been entrusted with the task of implementing the various decisions made as a result of the meeting.

10. A concert was given on 8th January 1954, at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris, under the auspices of the International Music Council and for the benefit of the International Music Fund. The Symphony Orchestra of Nordwestdeutscher Rundfunk, Hamburg, visiting Paris under its conductor, Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt, gave its services for the event. The programme consisted of two works: the "Canticle to Hope", to a poem of Paul Claudel by Paul Hindemith, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. It will be recalled that the "Canticle to Hope" was commissioned by the International Music Council for performance during the Unesco Conference on Music Education in Brussels in July 1953 and received its first performance on that occasion under the composer's direction. The present performance was the first to be given in France and the poet was present for the occasion. The soloist in the "Canticle" was Solange Michel and the solo parts in the choral movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony were sung, in German, by Martha Angelici, Solange Michel, Jean Giraudeau and André Vessières. The choir, in both works, was the Chorale des Jeunesses Musicales de France (choirmaster Louis Martini).

ORGANIZATIONAL

11. National Committees of the International Music Council have been formed in the following countries: Belgium, Brazil, Philippines, Uruguay. They will apply for affiliation with the International Music Council at the next General Assembly.

12. A South East Asian Regional Music Commission was created at the Unesco Conference on Music Education held in Brussels in July 1953. At its foundation, it grouped representatives of the following countries: India, Japan, Korea, Laos, the Philippines and Thailand. Mr. Ramon Tapales, Delegate of the International Music Council in the Philippines, was elected Chairman. Other Far-Eastern countries are expected to join the Commission in the near future, after which affiliation will be sought with the International Music Council. Preliminary plans have been laid down for a South-East Asian Music Convention to be held in Manila tentatively during the latter part of 1955, under the aegis of the Regional Commission.

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

13. The 28th Festival of the International Society for Contemporary Music will take place at Mount-Carmel Haifa, Israel, from 30th May to 10th June 1954 (See preliminary leaflet enclosed).
14. The International Folk Music Council has issued the following publications :
 - (a) Vol. VI of its Journal, January 1954. The Journal is published by W. Heffer and Sons Ltd. Cambridge, Price 12 shillings and 6 pence.
 - (b) an International Catalogue of Recorded Folk Music, edited by Norman Fraser, with a preface by R. Vaughan Williams and an introduction by Maud Karpeles, Prepared and published for Unesco in association with the Oxford University Press. Price 16/-, pr 12/6d. to members of the Council.
 - (c) a Manual for Folk Music Collectors, by Maud Karpeles and Arnold Baké with a supplement on cinéfilming by Doris Plaister, price 3/6 d.

The International Folk Music Council's Seventh International Conference will be held from August 16th to 22nd 1954, at Sao Paulo, Brazil, at the invitation of the Brazilian National Folklore Commission.

15. International Federation of Musical Youth; The 7th Congress of the Federation will take place at Hanover, Germany, from 2nd to 8th June. The International Orchestra of the Federation will perform on this occasion under Hermann Scherchen.

The Musikalische Jugend Deutschlands (German Section of the International Federation) is holding its Fifth International Meeting at Bayreuth from July 30th to August 13th.

The young Brazilian pianist Lucy Sallès was awarded first prize at a National Piano Contest held in Brazil in October, at Rio de Janeiro. The award having taken the form of a concert tour of European sections of Musical Youth, Miss Sallès gave concerts in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Austria;

In the United Kingdom, "Youth and Music", an organization founded by Sir Robert Mayer, with Dr. Ralph Vaughan Williams as President and Sir Robert Mayer as Chairman, was created in February 1954. It will apply for membership of the International Federation of Musical Youth.

16. International Confederation of Popular Societies of Music : An International Competition for Brass bands organized by the Confederation, will take place at Ostende, Belgium on 25th/27th June 1954. Entries have been received to date from Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland.
17. International Association of Music Libraries : A new Committee of the Association, an international Committee of Public Music Libraries, will be constituted in the course of a series of meetings due to take place in April 1954, at the Institut de France, Paris.

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